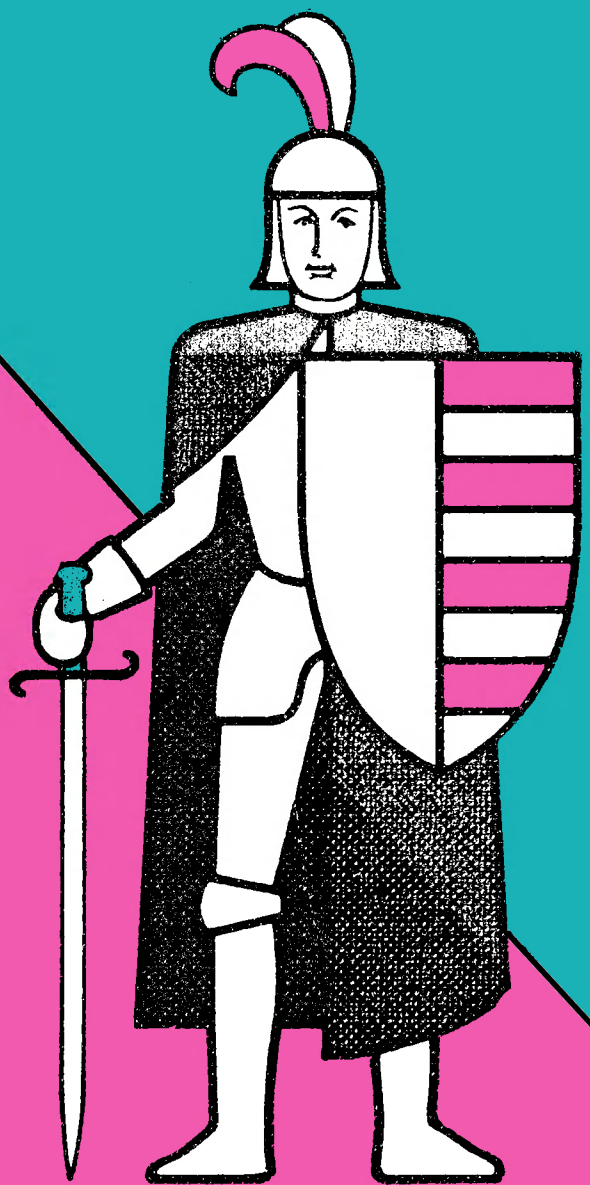
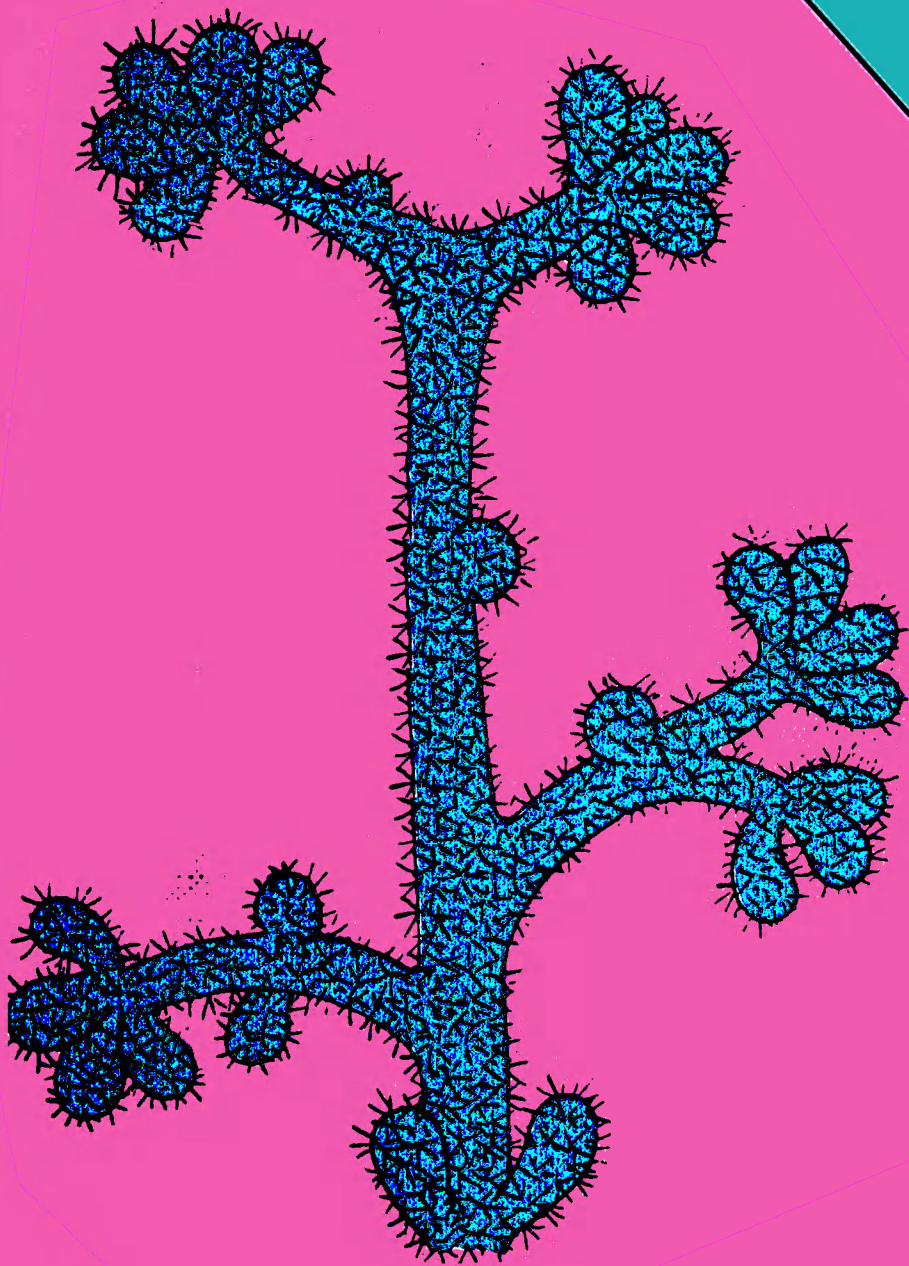


ALL SORTS of DRESS

By MARIE NEURATH



STERLING PRIMARY SERIES

All Sorts of Dress

by

Marie Neurath

designed by

ISOTYPE INSTITUTE



Sterling Publishing Co. Inc., New York



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PRINTED IN GREAT BRITAIN

FIRST PUBLISHED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA 1964

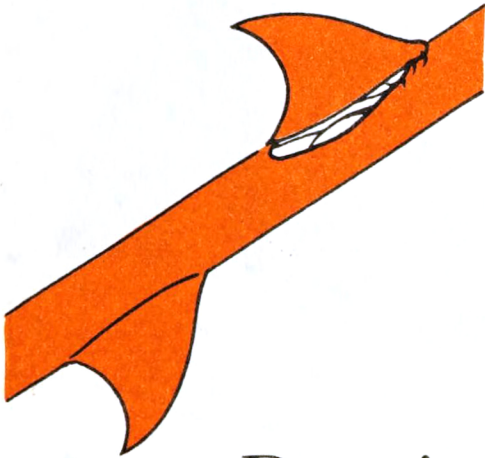
BY STERLING PUBLISHING CO., INC.

419 FOURTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 16, NEW YORK

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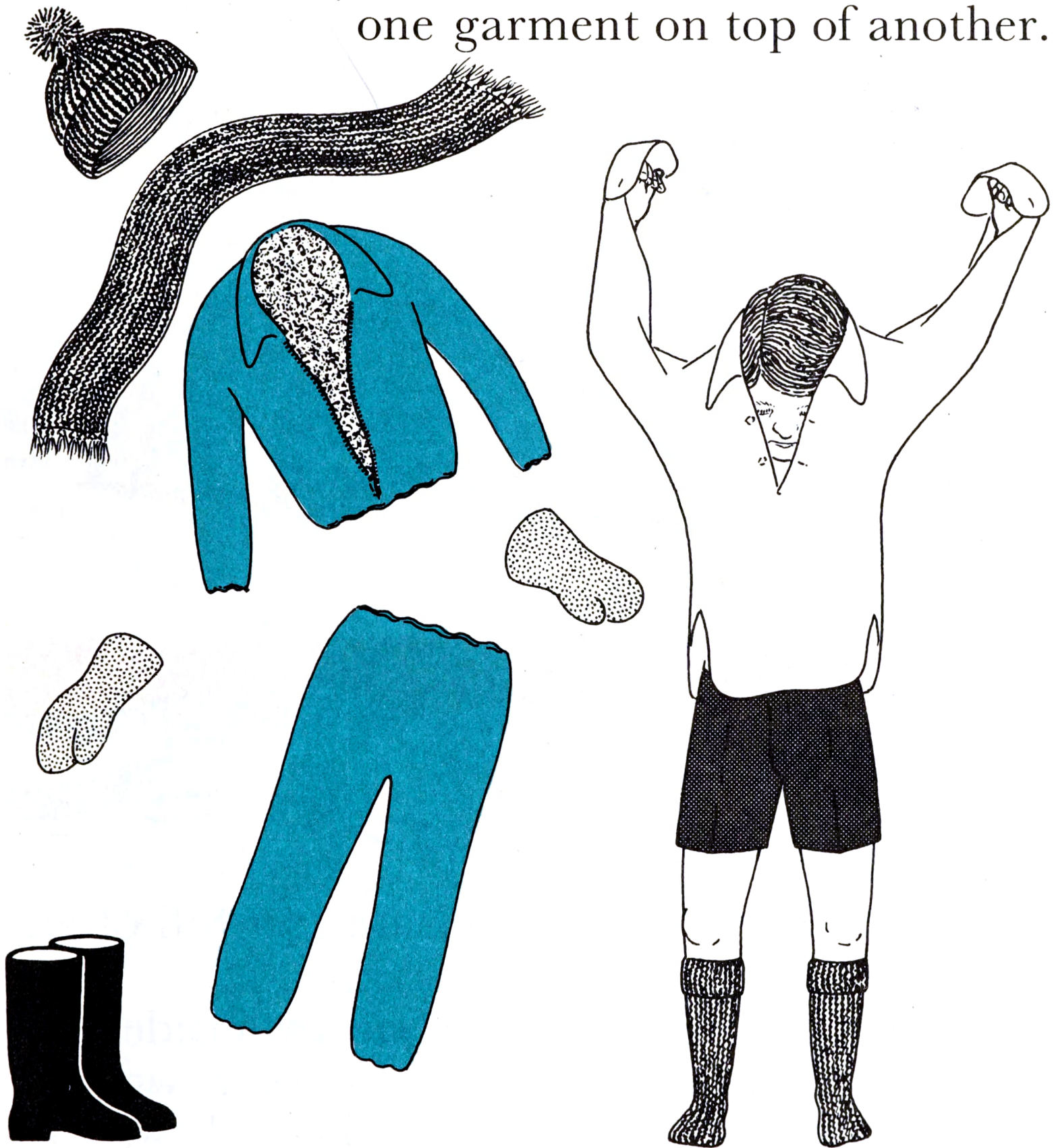
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Fur or Wool - which is it to be?



The pussy cat's fur keeps her as warm as toast. No wonder she can scamper about in the snow.

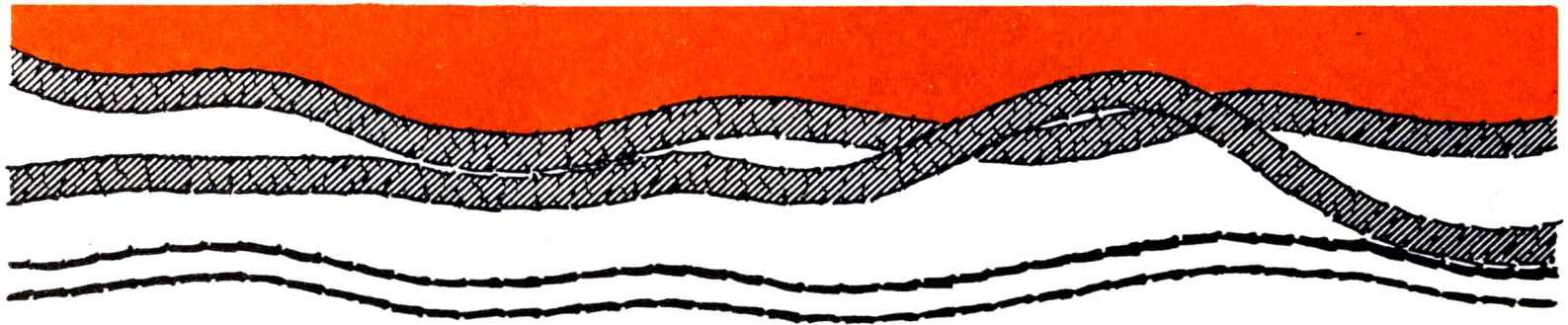
This little boy, like all people, has a thin skin with no fur or wool growing out of it. He only has hair on his head. He wears one garment on top of another.



Why does an Arab under the blazing desert sun wear wool? He wants to be cool! Wool keeps you warm, but it keeps heat away from you too.

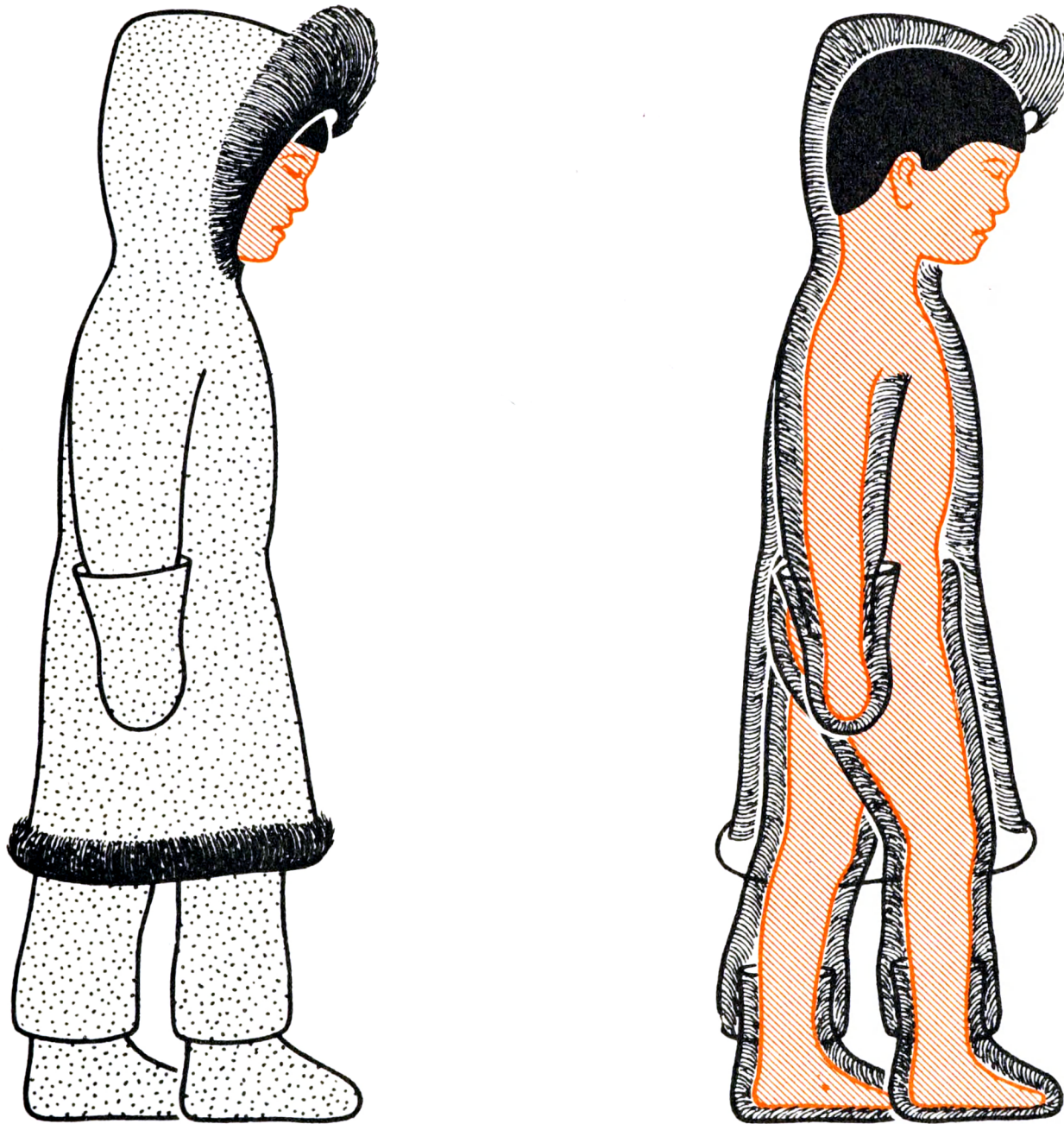


Here is a strand taken from wool.



Each wool hair is hollow inside and full of air. The hairs are all tangled together. Air is trapped in the spaces. Air inside. Air outside! That is why you can wear wool in any climate.

An Eskimo boy has to live through an Arctic winter. Does he wear layer upon layer of clothes?

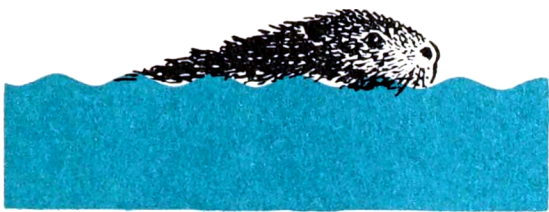


He wears nothing at all beneath his fur suit. The fur, turned inside, traps a layer of warm air near his body, and the leather keeps it in.

In his oilskin cape, heavy rubber boots and woollen underclothes this lifeboatman can face the cold and stormy seas. Water runs quickly off his cape, and cannot penetrate it.



What about the beaver? How can he keep hopping in and out of the water in all weather?



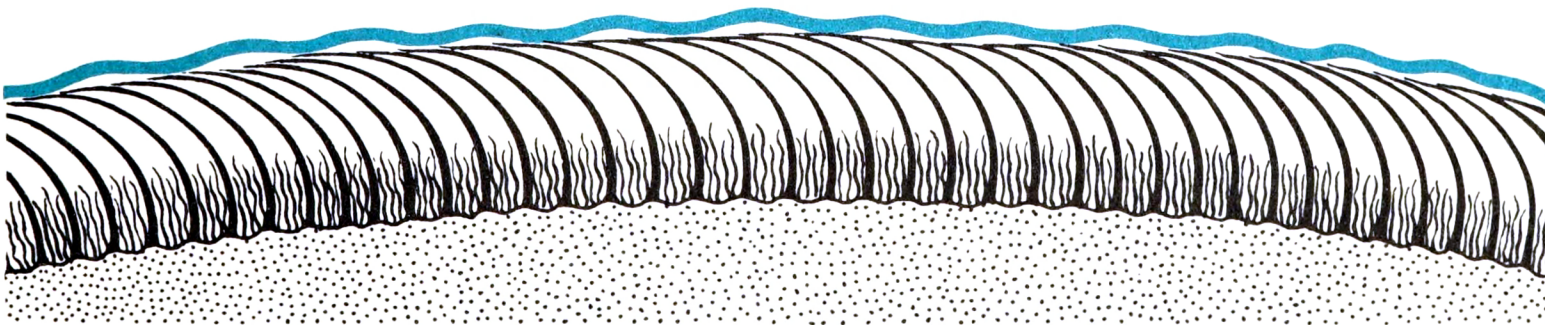
After swimming to the river bank, the beaver scampers up the slope to dry land.



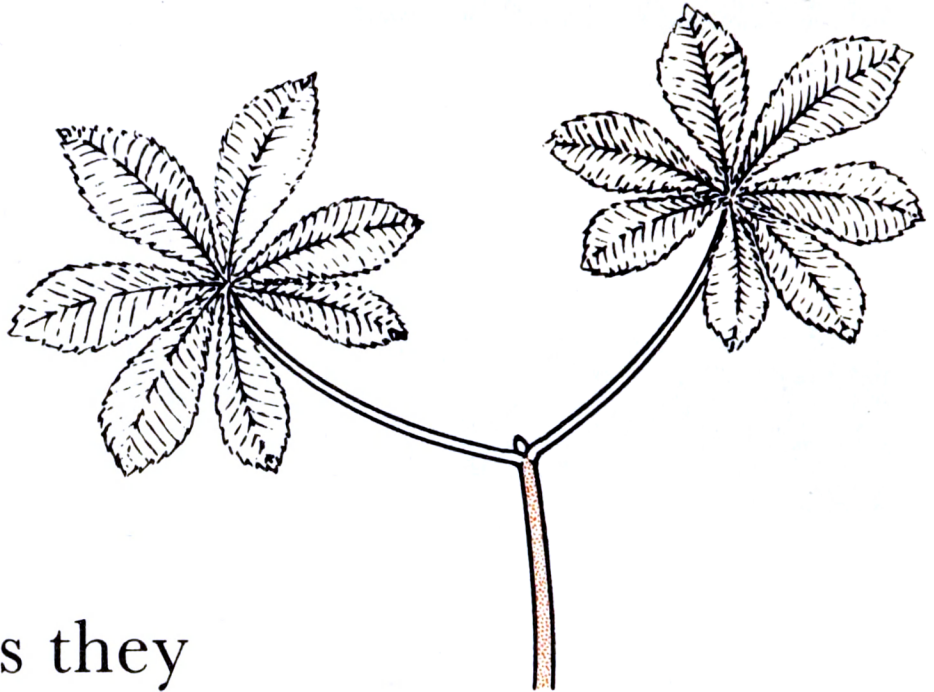
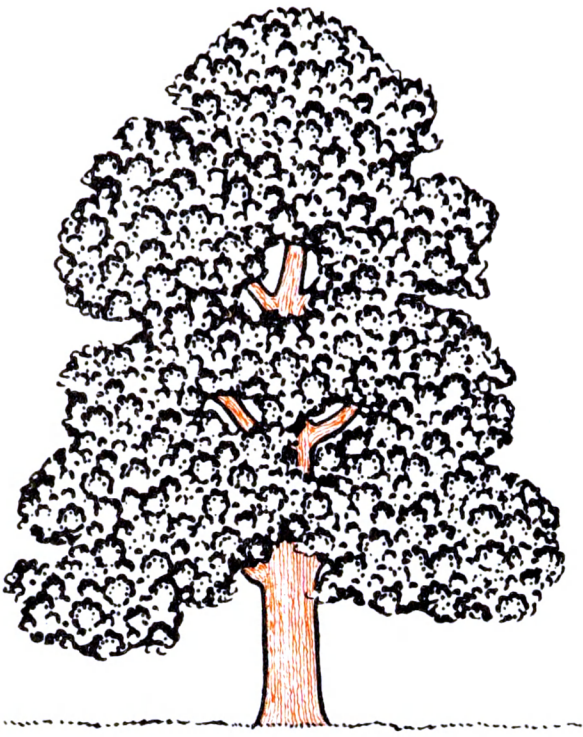
One shake!
Two shakes!
He is dry.



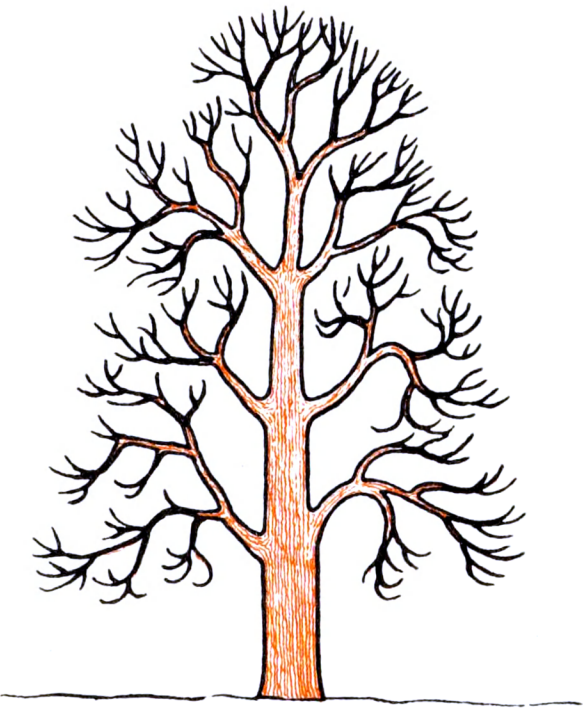
The longest hairs of a beaver's fur are oily and smooth. When they are wet, they all lie down in a mat. In between his long hairs there are others – much shorter, but very soft and fine. This underfur holds a deep layer of warm air close to his skin.



When a tree is in full leaf,
young buds are being born.



But for many months they
have to sleep through a
cruel winter, hard frost and biting winds.



Buds are delicate things, like babies.
But what protects them instead of wool or fur?



A bud on a tree has many
coats and layers.
The outermost ones are
stout and shiny.
They are full of gum, which
keeps them waterproof and
dry.



Underneath them come the
softer ones, smooth and
green.

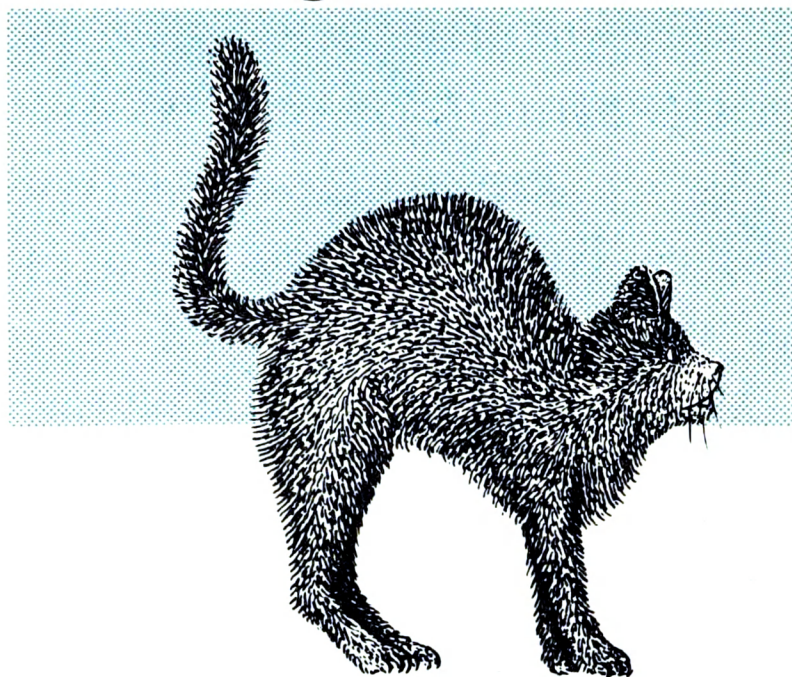
And further in still is the
tender young shoot in its
baby wrap of furry skin.

And if snow falls, that is all to the good.
Snow, being light and fluffy, is full of air.



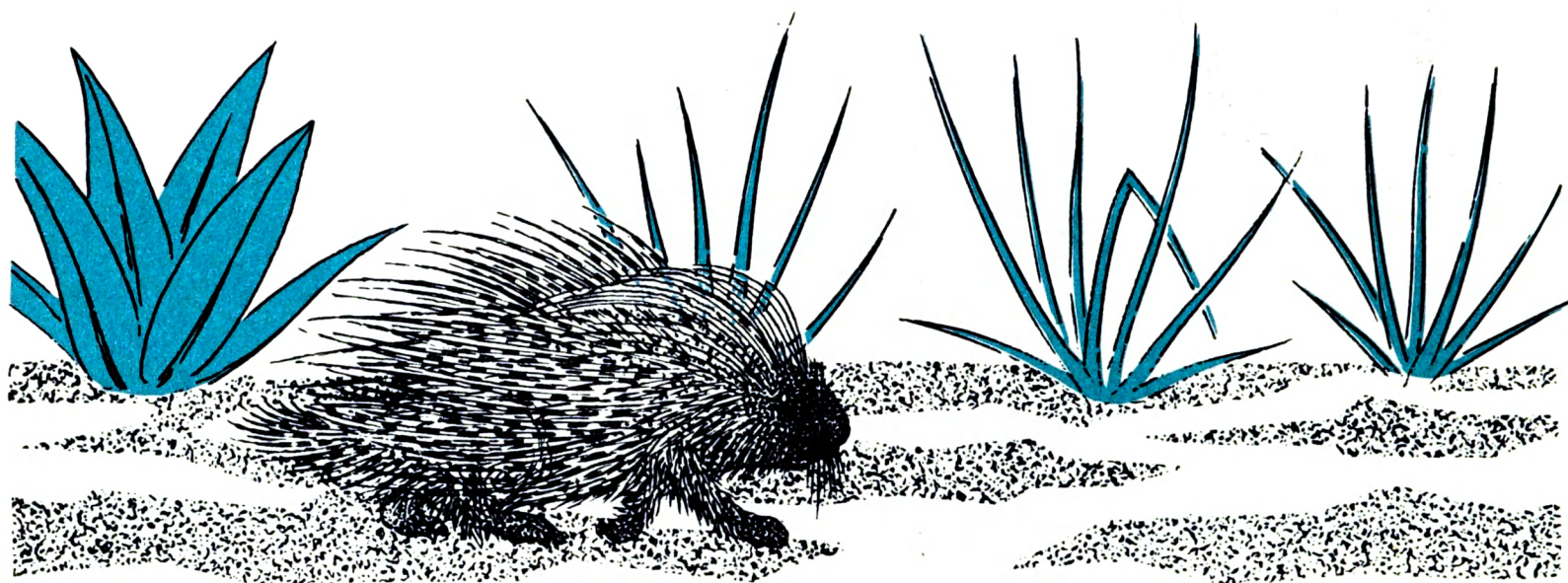
Spring is the dangerous
time for the buds.
In spring, the bud throws off
its heavy winter wear.
Then, night frosts may kill
the undressed shoot.

Dressing for Defending or Attacking



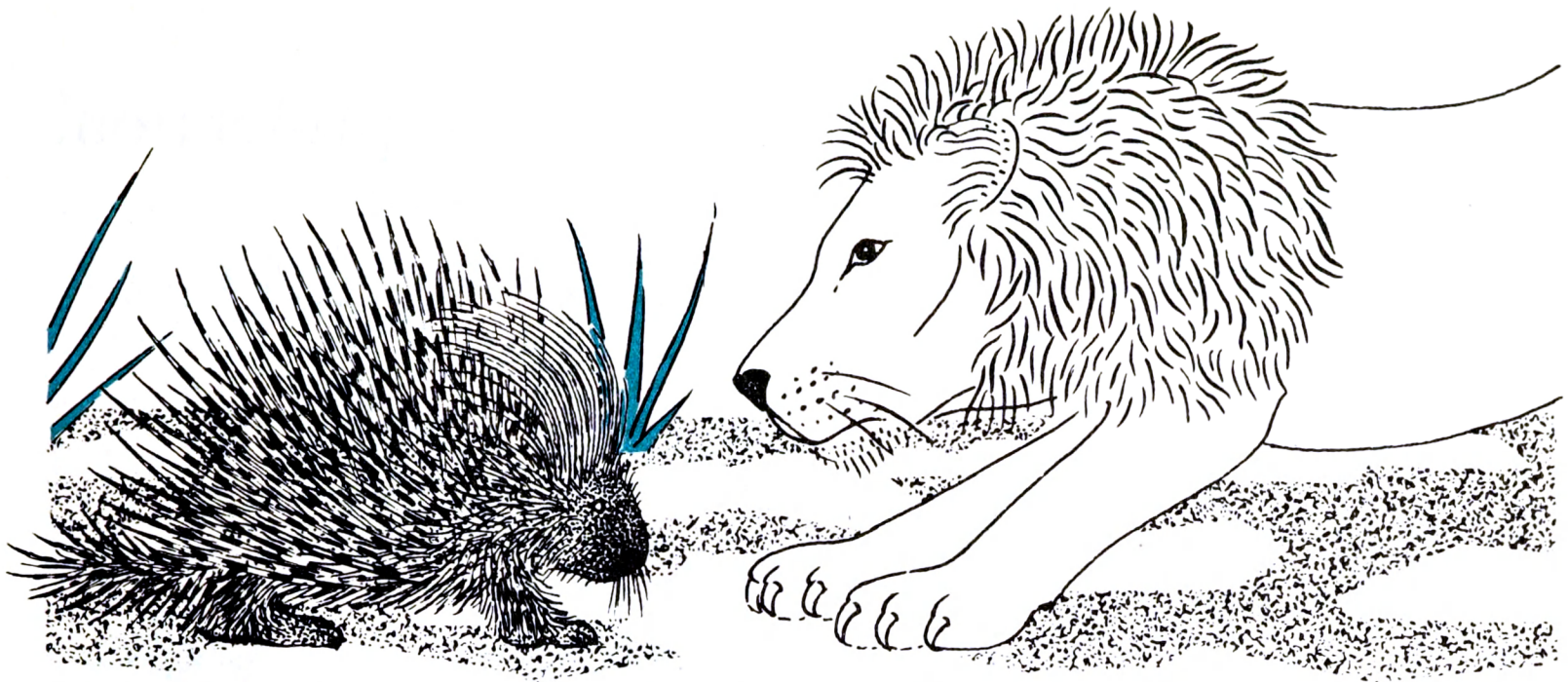
Pussy's soft coat is standing on end. That cannot do much to protect her, you will say.

But to an unfriendly dog she looks terribly fierce. He may decide to leave her alone.



This African porcupine can frighten the boldest of creatures. His quills are stiff and hard, and as long as a ruler. They are pointed and sharp at the ends, and have barbs.



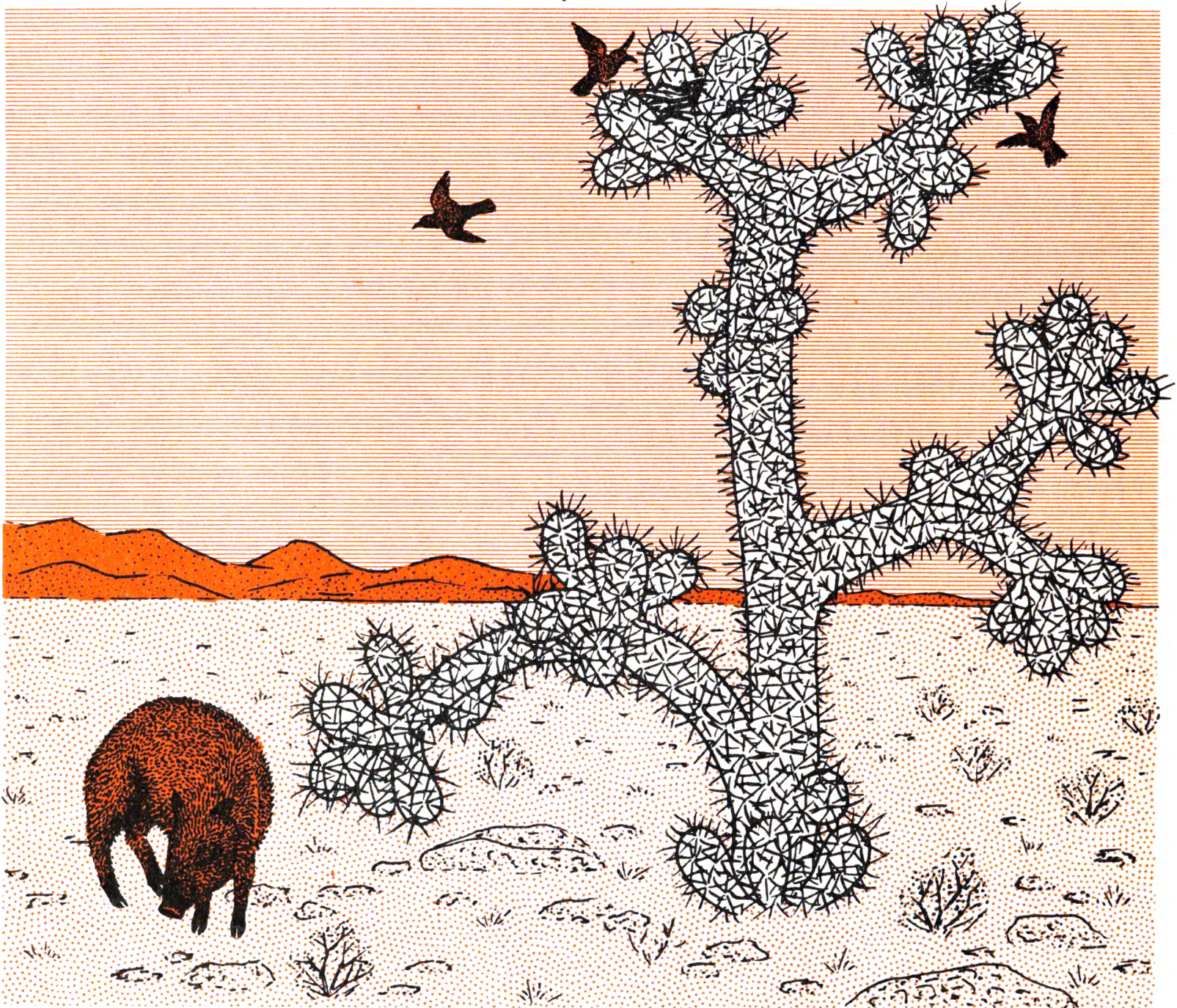


When the porcupine's quills stand on end, he looks like a real terror. Well, perhaps the lion, the king of beasts, is not afraid. He may even take a sniff or two.



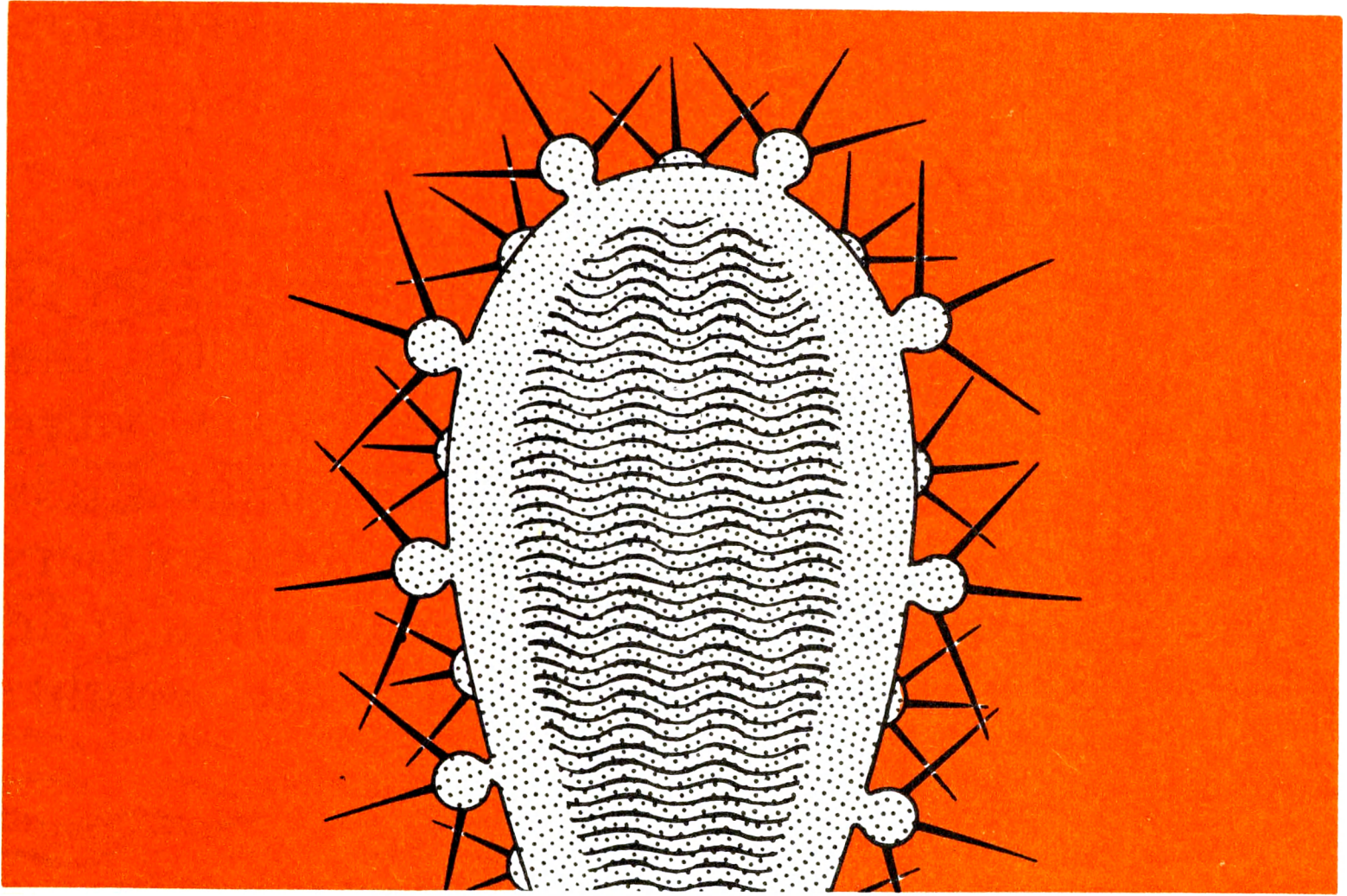
Up comes the porcupine's armed tail, like a whip lash, and strikes his face. The loose quills are left in the lion's plump cheek. Oh dear! Now he will roar for days.

Plants, too, may have prickles for protection.
Just look at this nasty cholla cactus.

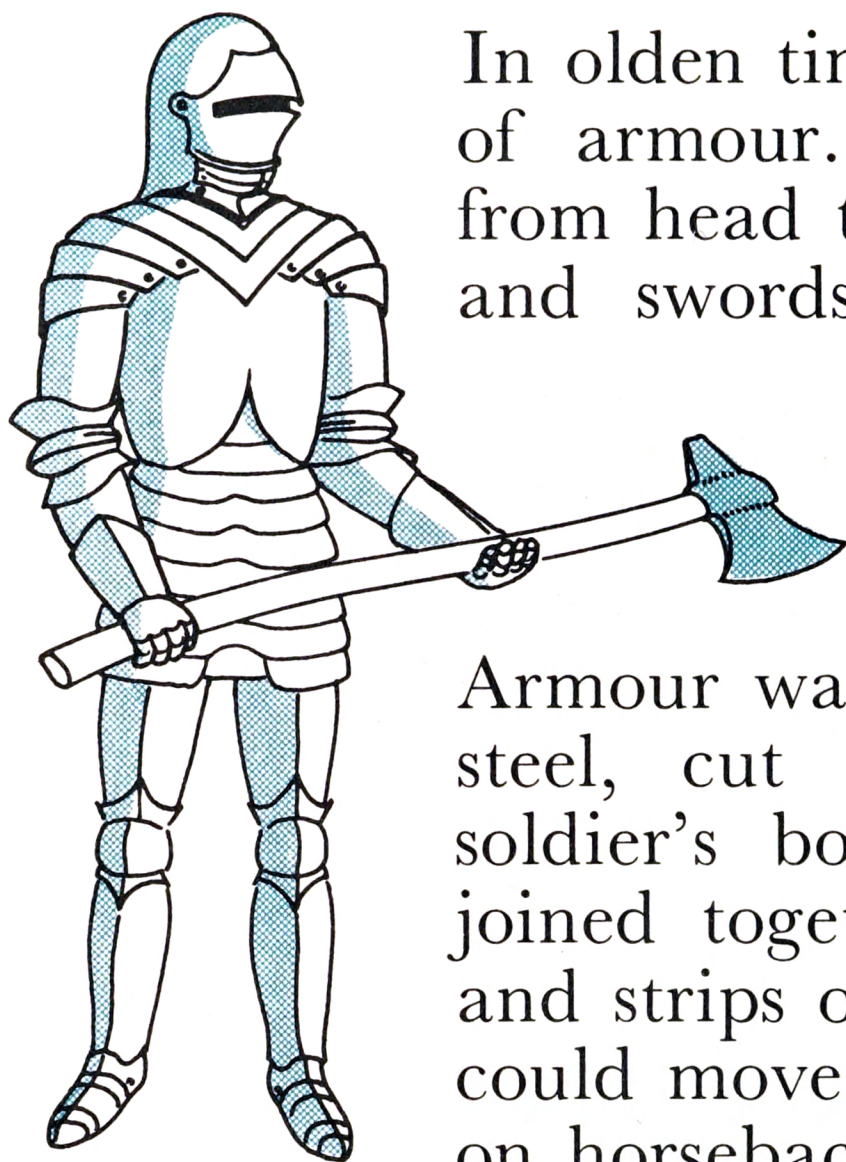


Is it any better looking than an angry
porcupine?
Not many animals care to come too close.
A daring bird or two can slip in, although
how they manage it nobody knows.

But why should the cactus have enemies? It has a secret store of liquid that is more precious than gold. Water! Its thick, round stem is juicy and tight with it.

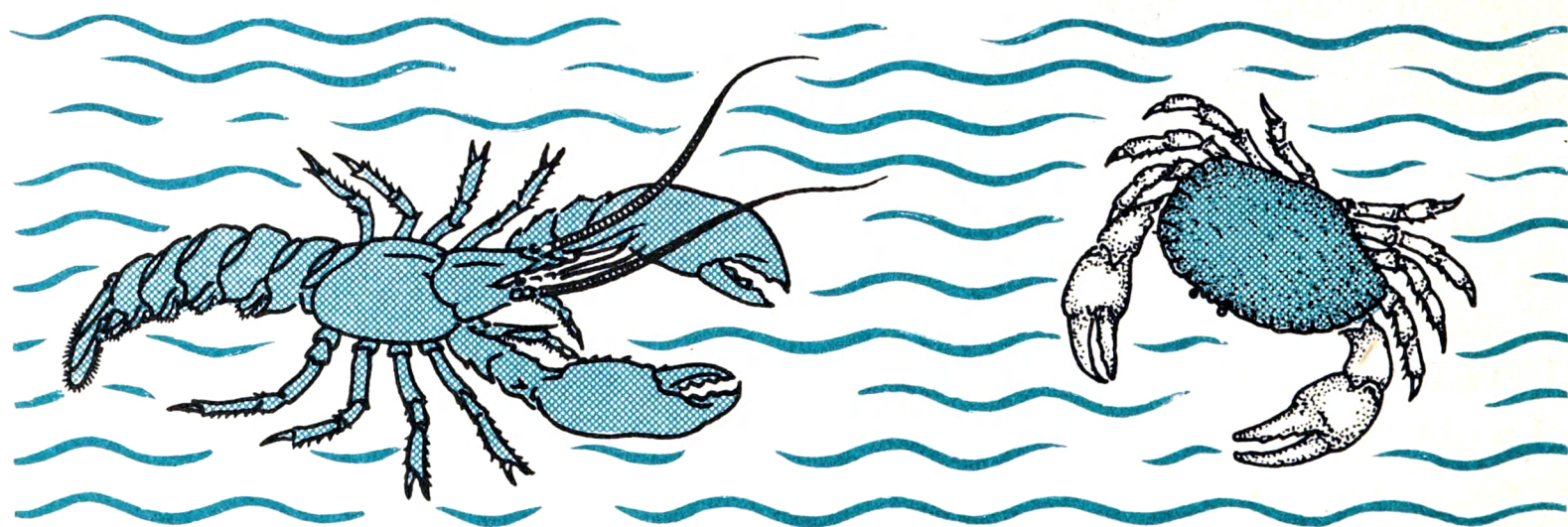


The cactus lives in hot, dry lands where there is seldom any rain. But when it does rain, the cactus drinks and drinks and swells and swells. It lives on its store of water throughout the year. It has none to spare. The thirsty desert beasts would devour the cactus if they could – just to get the water it contains.



In olden times, soldiers wore suits of armour. They were encased from head to foot. Spears, arrows and swords broke on the hard surface.

Armour was made from pieces of steel, cut and bent to fit the soldier's body. The pieces were joined together with metal studs and strips of leather. The soldiers could move about, but often rode on horseback to carry the weight.

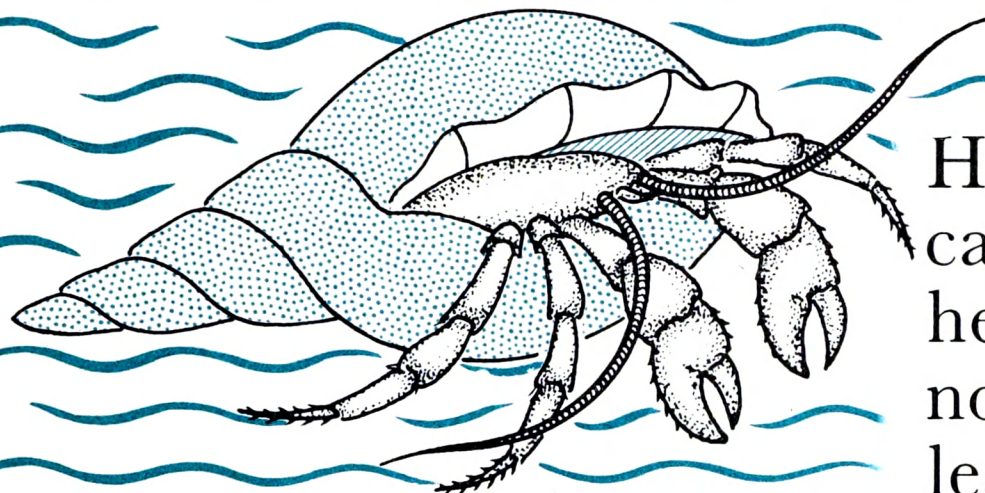
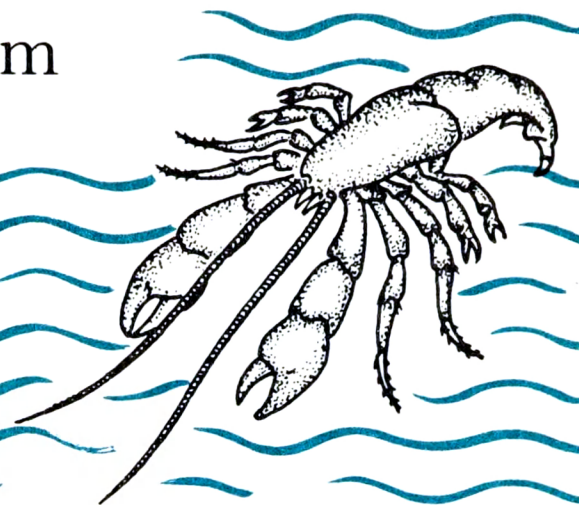


A similar armour, jointed and loose, is still being worn today – by the lobster and crab.

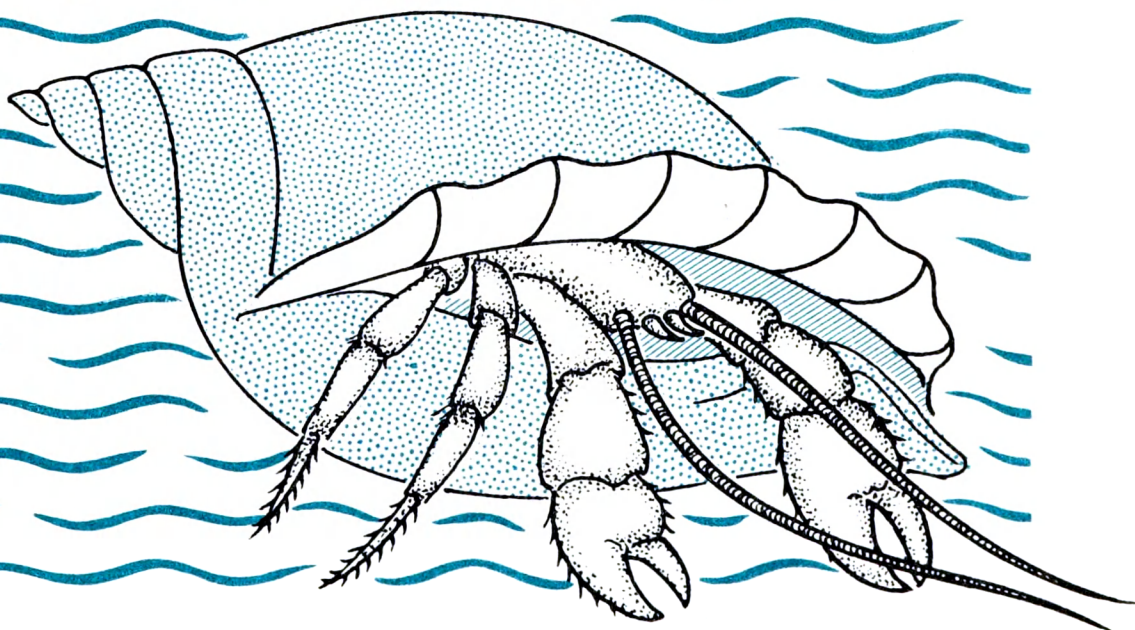
The hermit crab has a problem to solve. He is born without a shell.

Other crabs have a shell and so must he.

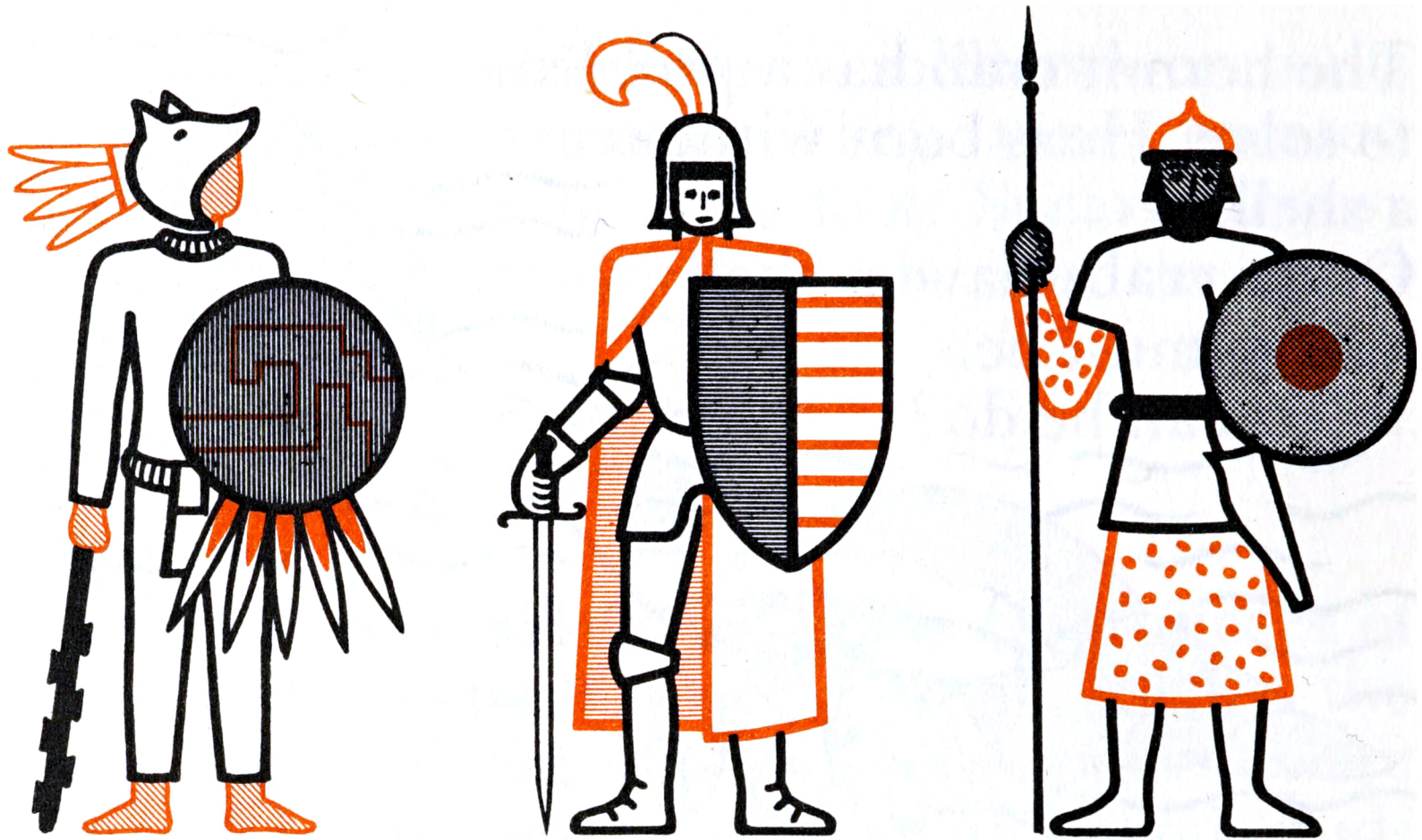
What can he do?



He can borrow a cast-off shell. And he does. He does not mind in the least what animal it comes from, as long as it fits him.



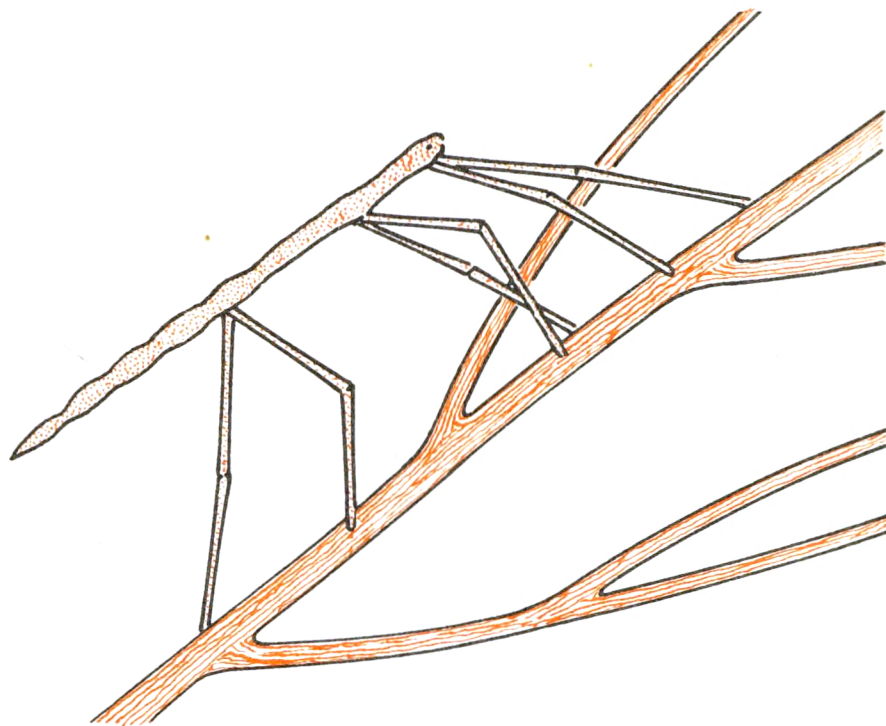
And if he grows too big for it, he finds a bigger shell.



In the days when hand-to-hand fighting was the rule, soldiers could look very striking indeed. They wore scarlets and blues and purples and greens – sometimes all at once. Like sportsmen today, they wore the uniform of their side. Because of that, every fighter knew who was friend and who was foe. Soldiers today, with their long-distance guns, prefer not to be seen. They wear khaki or jungle green battledress which does not stand out against a background of earth, fields and trees.



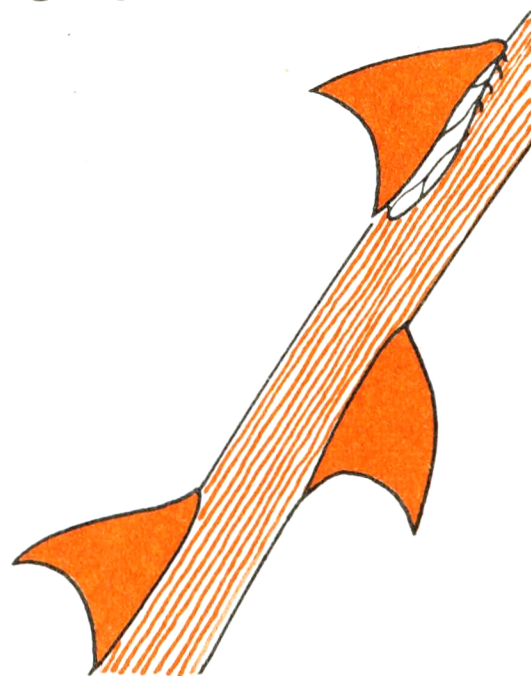
The stick insect also manages to pass unnoticed – so long as he does not move. He matches the shade and shape of the twig he sits on.



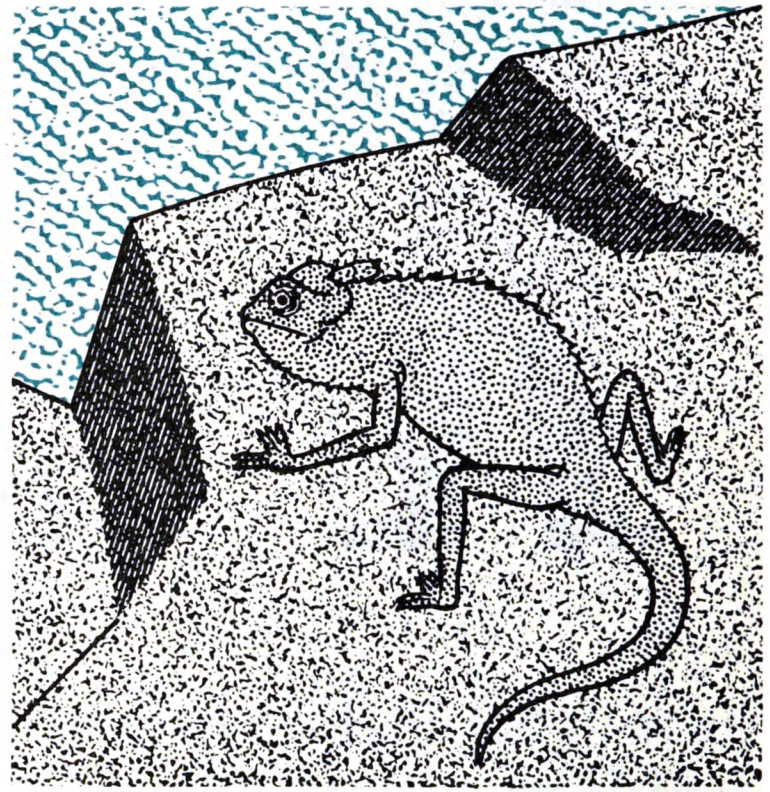
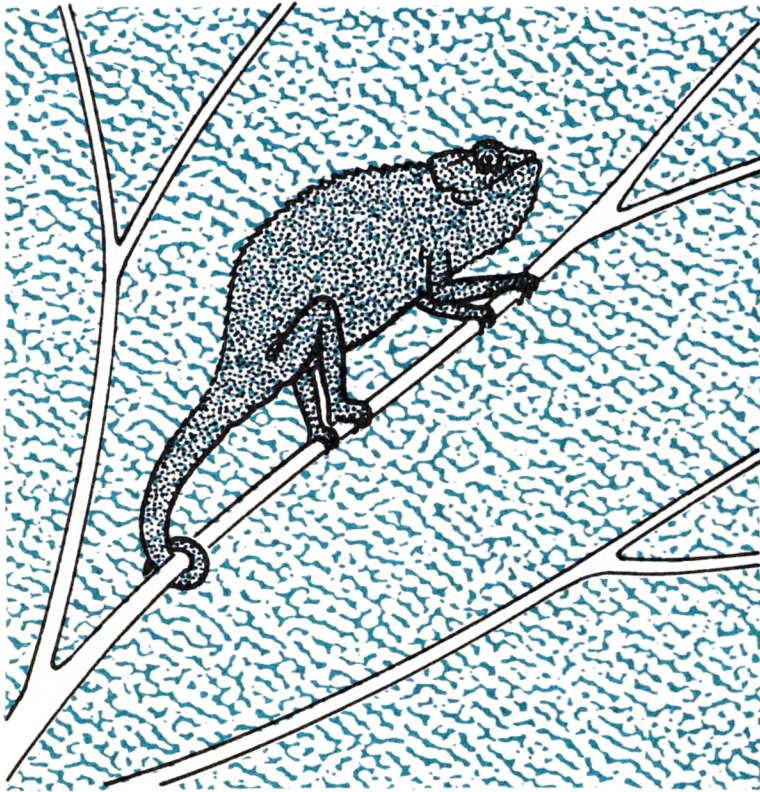
The tree hopper manages things just as well, if not better.

When he is at rest on a prickly stem he looks just like a thorn.

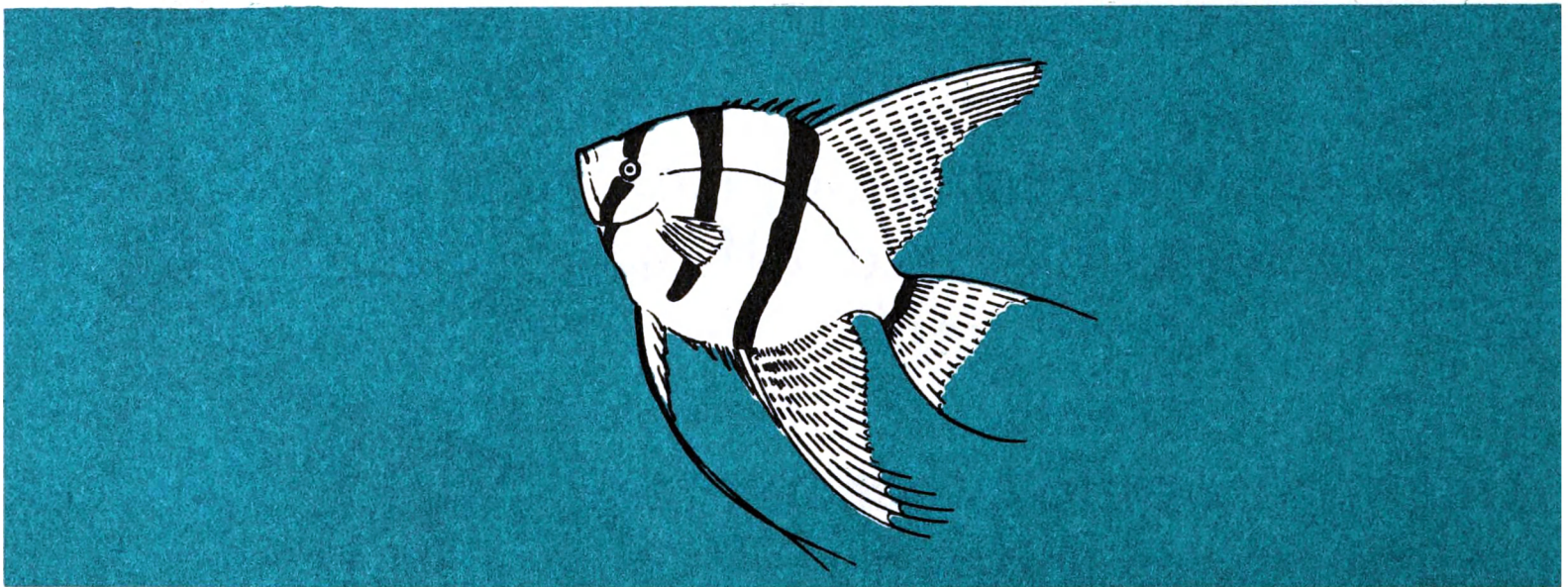
And who would want to eat a nasty sharp thorn?



The chameleon looks quite different when the temperature and the light change. He will lie in a place where he matches the background and will not be easily noticed.



How different from this angel fish, you will say. He stands out a mile. Yes, in a tank he does.



But just try picking him out in his own true home, and see how difficult that is.

The sun shines through the shallow coral sea, and shadows are cast on the sea bed.

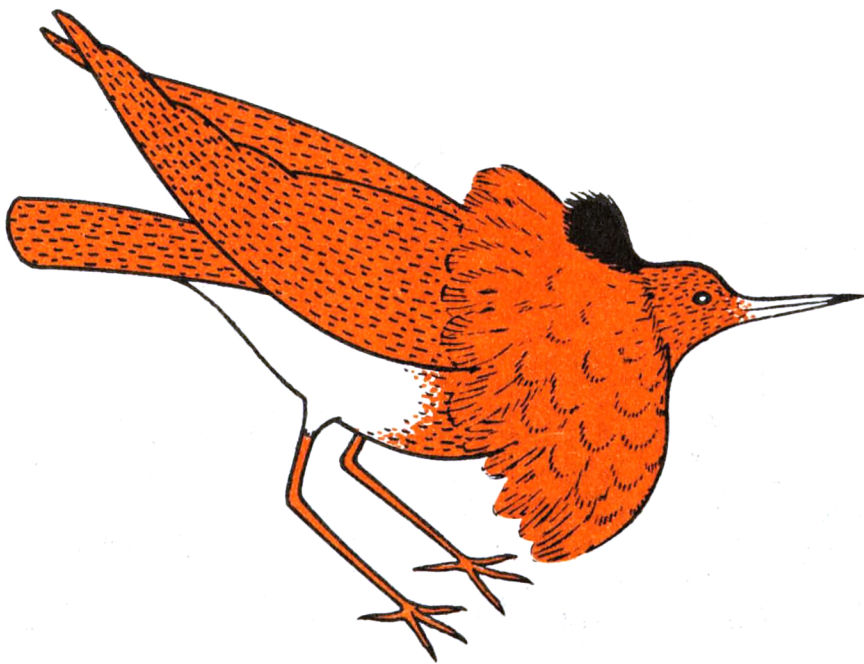
His stripes are like trembling shadows or swaying weeds. You can scarcely find him at all. His disguise is quite perfect, both while he is swimming and while he is still.



Dressing with a Difference

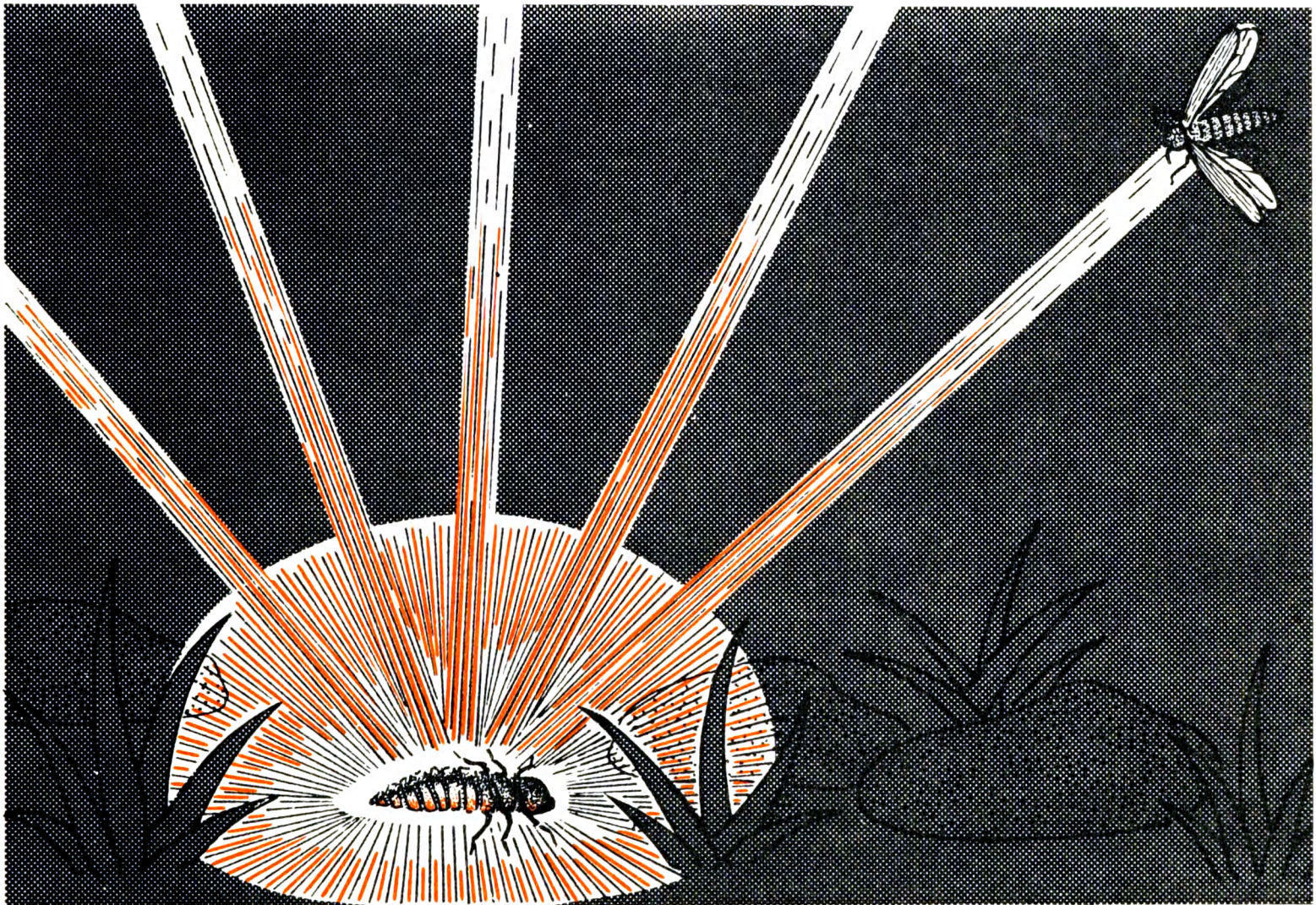


Centuries ago, ladies and gentlemen often wore large ruffs around their necks. No doubt they wore them to please one another. This probably made up for the discomfort ruffs caused.



When he is courting the hen, the cock bird (called the ruff) grows a splendid feather collar right around his neck.

But even with glittering jewels, nobody can match the shining light a glow-worm emits in the summer night. She has no wings and lives on the ground, or in plant foliage.



The males have wings and fly freely in the air. How can she find herself a mate? She displays a broad band of light around the middle of her dark coat. Twisting and turning she shines in all directions like a flashing beacon, and he can fly to her side.

Even plants dress up for attraction.



How bright these flowers are, and how boldly they stare out from among their leaves. The butterflies and bees see them very well, and come to sip at their nectar.

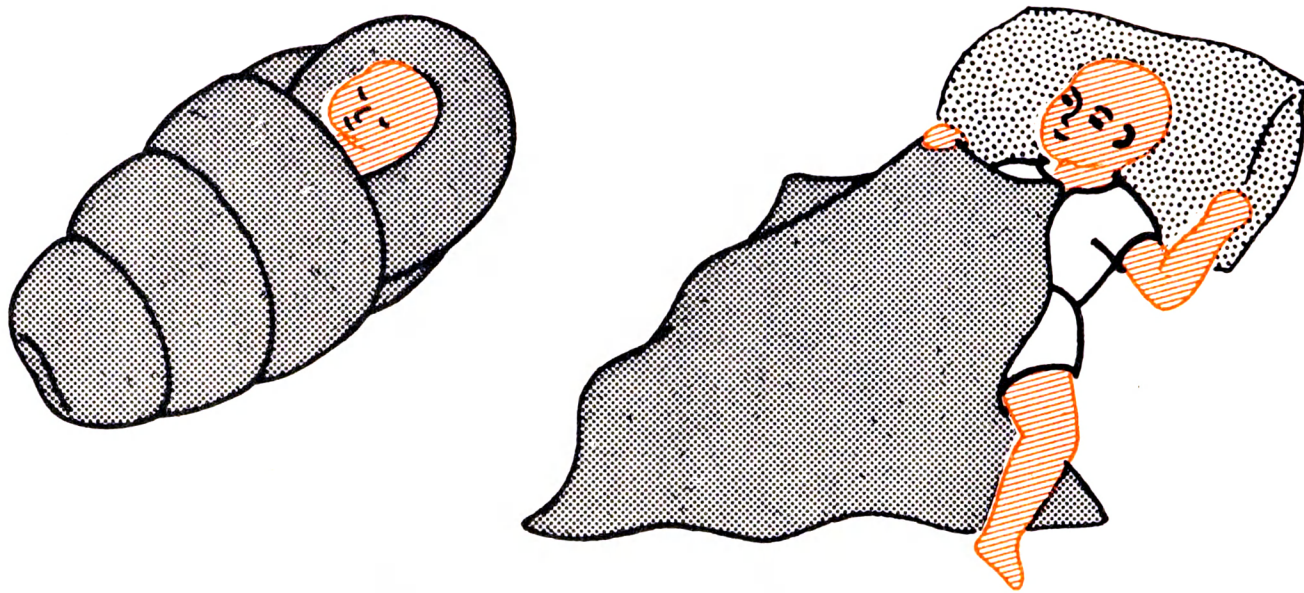
These insects, dusty with pollen from other flowers, may leave some pollen behind. Now a new seed can grow. The flower will die just the same, but a new plant will take its place.



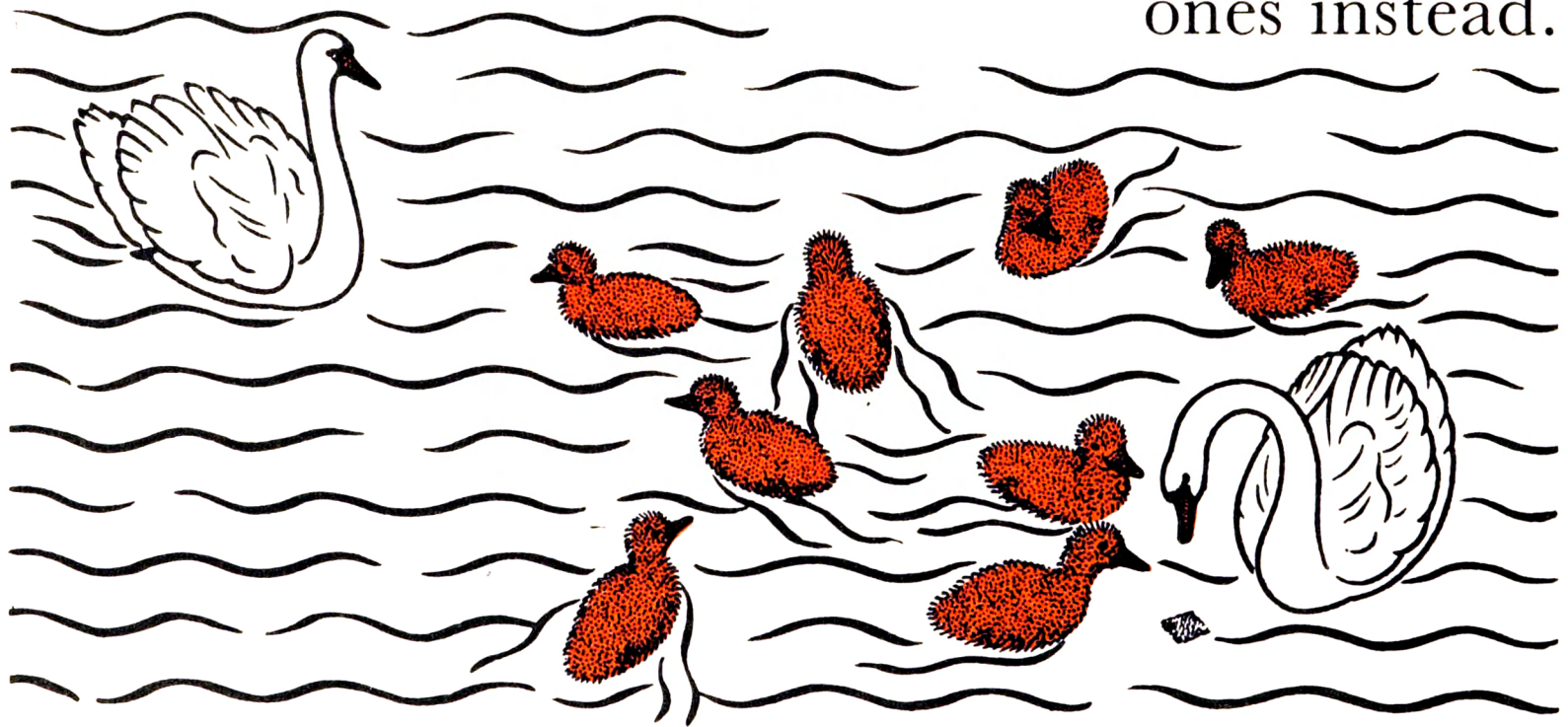
But what about these little grass flowers, looking so small and so pale?

There will be no insect visitors for them. Never mind. They do not need living visitors. They can do without them. The wind is their friend. Shaking out the loose pollen and blowing it from flower to flower, the wind takes pollen wherever it is needed.

Baby dresses have changed a good deal since the old days. Baby was wrapped up like a tight parcel, unable to move hand or foot.



Baby swans also have a baby dress. And so do all other birds. The baby swan's dress is brownish and fluffy. Gradually the young swan loses its baby feathers and grows strong white ones instead.



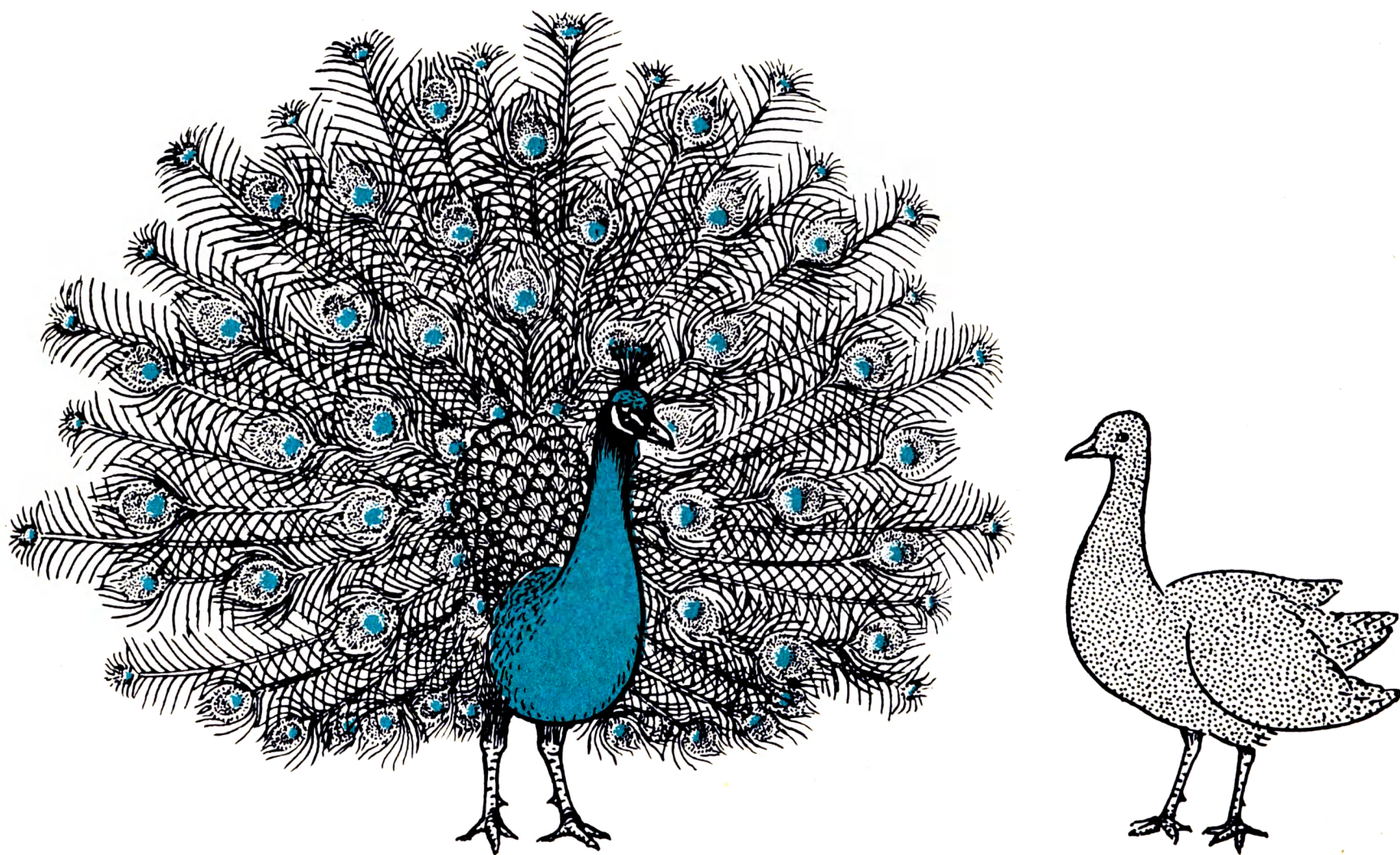
When the bagworm hatches out of its egg, it looks like any other caterpillar, except for the way it walks. It walks about on its front legs and keeps its hind legs up in the air.



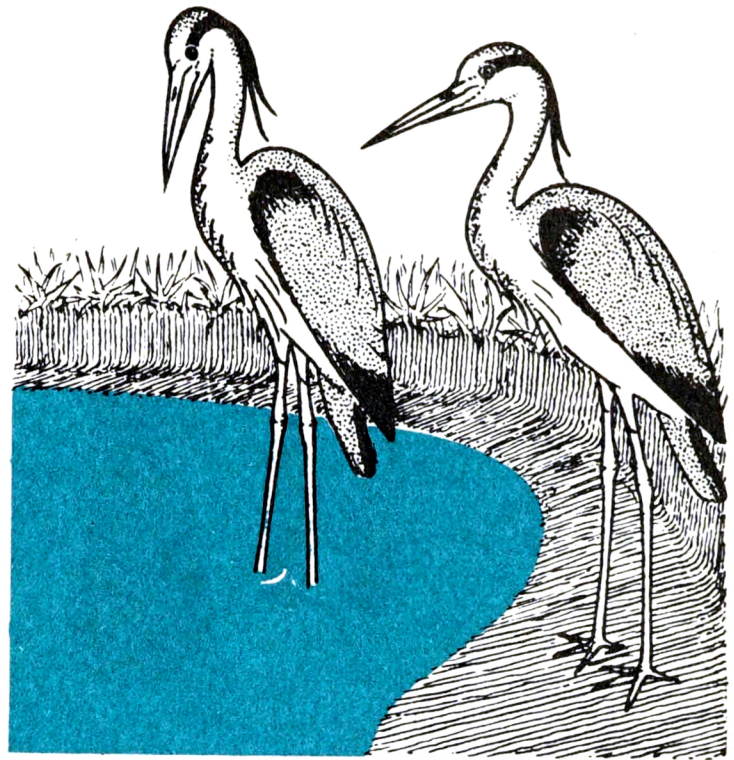
Very early in its life, the bagworm begins to weave its own baby clothes. It starts off with a sort of cap perched on the tip of its tail end. It lengthens this cap to a short silk dress, and finally to a long silk bag coming right over its head. When the bag becomes so heavy that the grub can scarcely move, it fastens itself to a twig.

With people no one needs to be told which is the woman and which is the man and which of the two dresses up more.

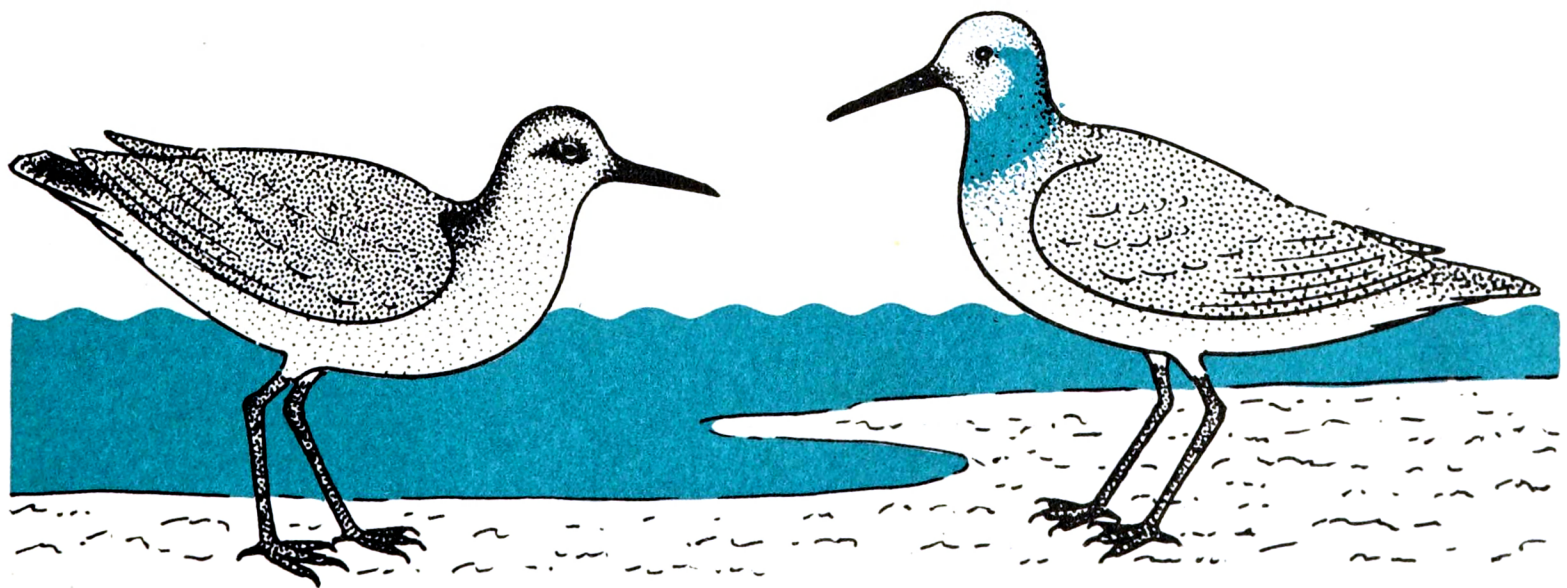
Here we have another couple, but in this case it is the female who is plain and the male who wears the fine feathers. Enemies will almost certainly make for the peacock first and the peahen may be saved from harm.



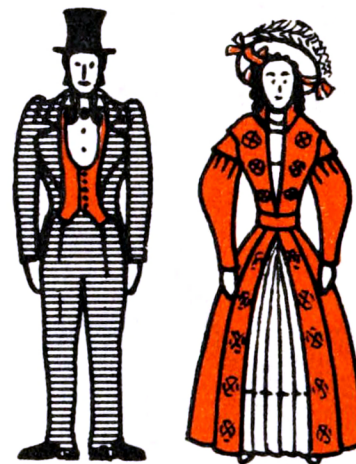
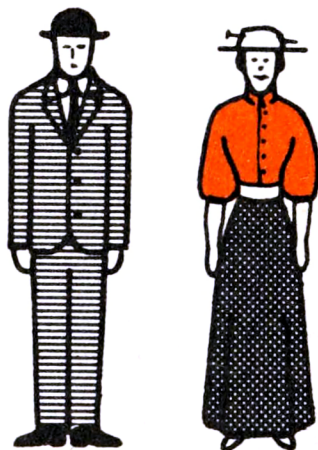
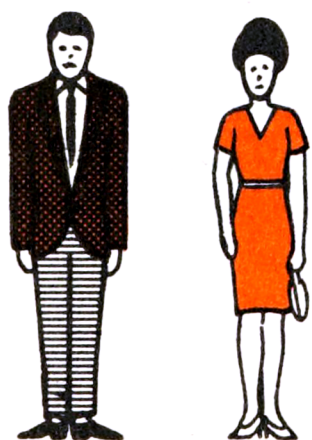
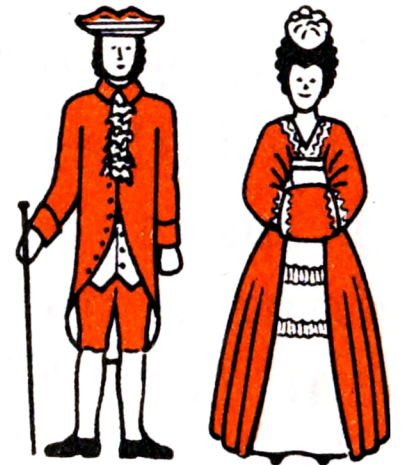
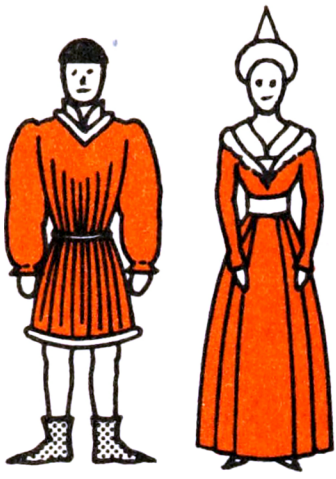
You cannot tell these two birds apart. They are the same size and their feathers look the same. They do the same things in the same way. They take turns in sitting on their eggs.



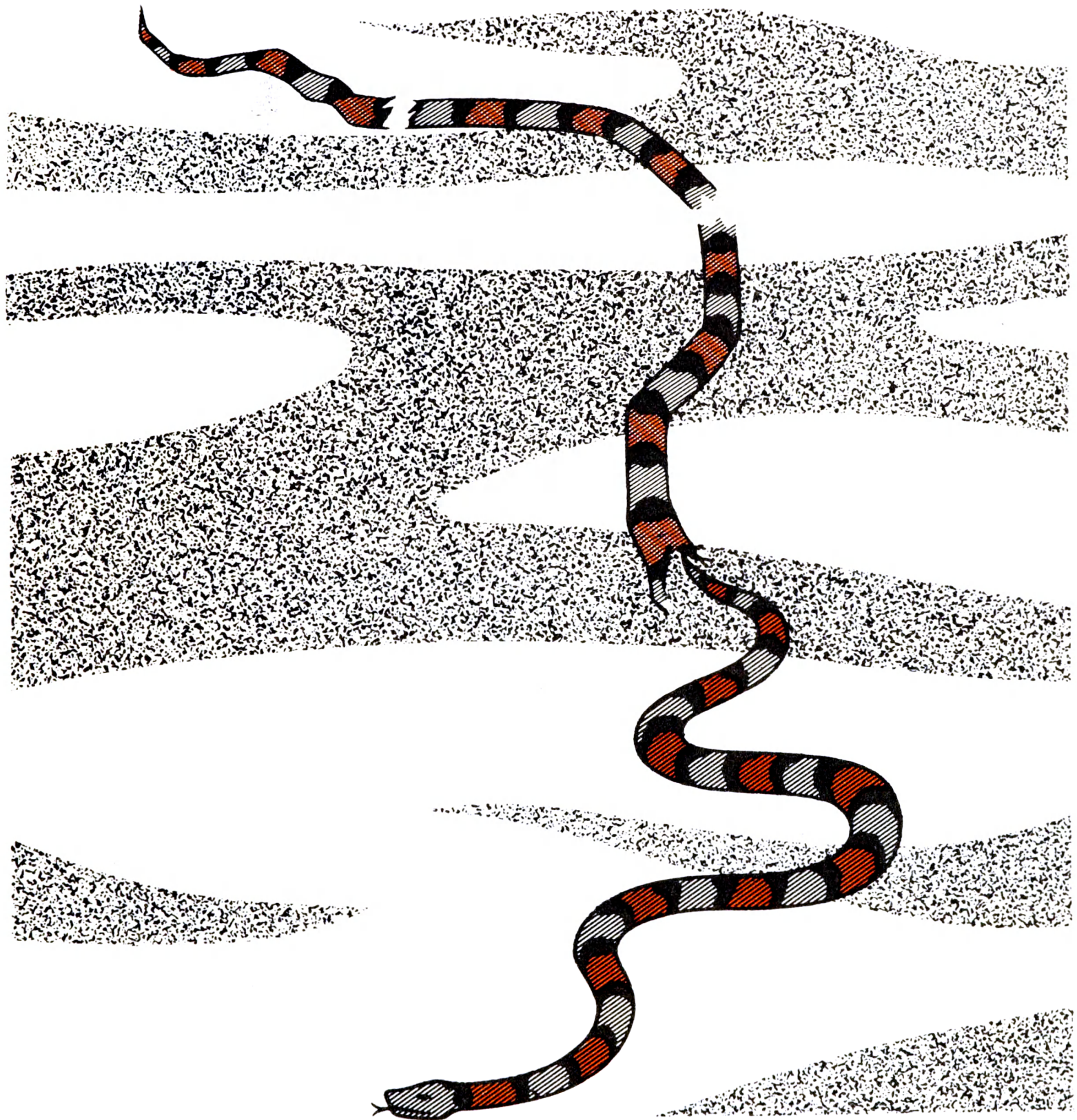
Now with this pair it is different again. It is the father bird who sits on the eggs and who is just as dull as can be. Mother bird, who is free from a mother's cares, is by far the gaudier of the two. She is the one who likes to show off. And she is the one who fights and attacks strangers long before they get near the eggs.



Men and women like to change
the fashion of their clothes
from time to time.

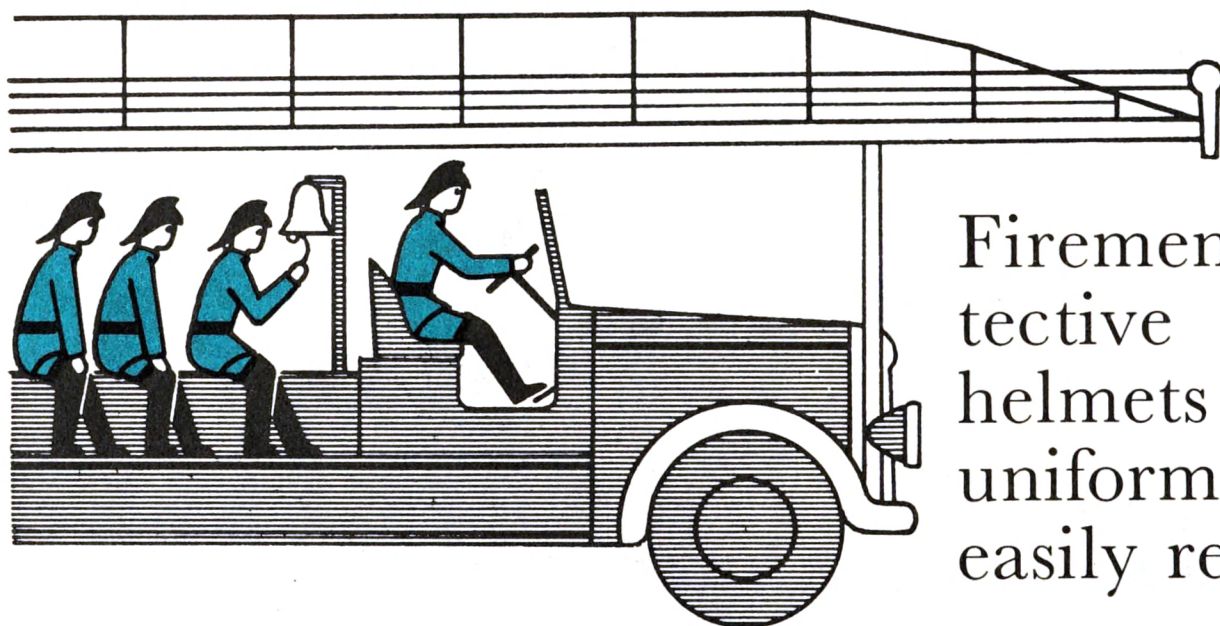
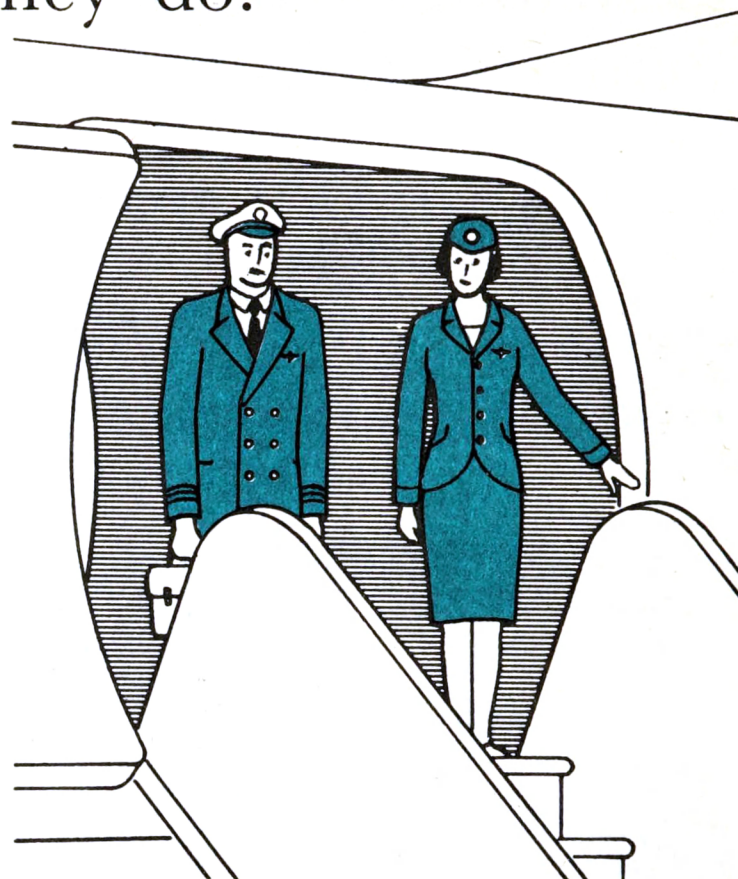


Snakes change their costume too, when they grow out of their old one. But they keep the same pattern.



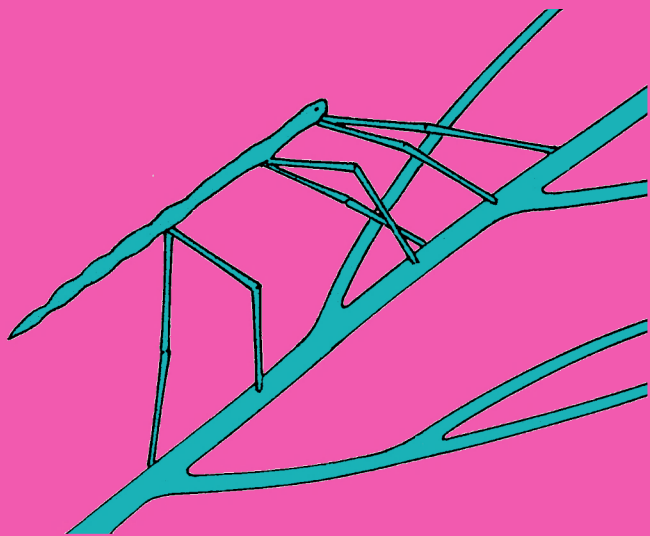
With people, clothes are often intended to show the sort of work they do.

The airliner passengers might not know their captain and flight hostess if it were not for their uniforms.



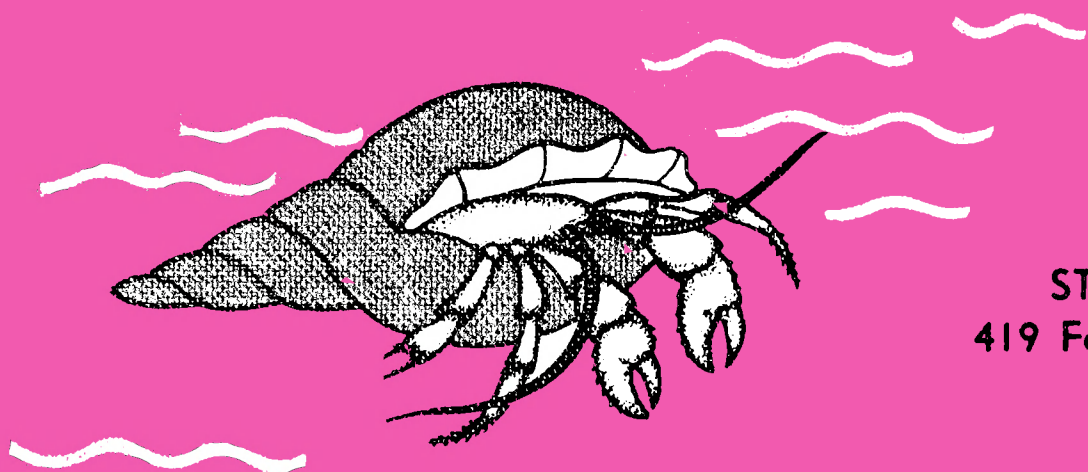
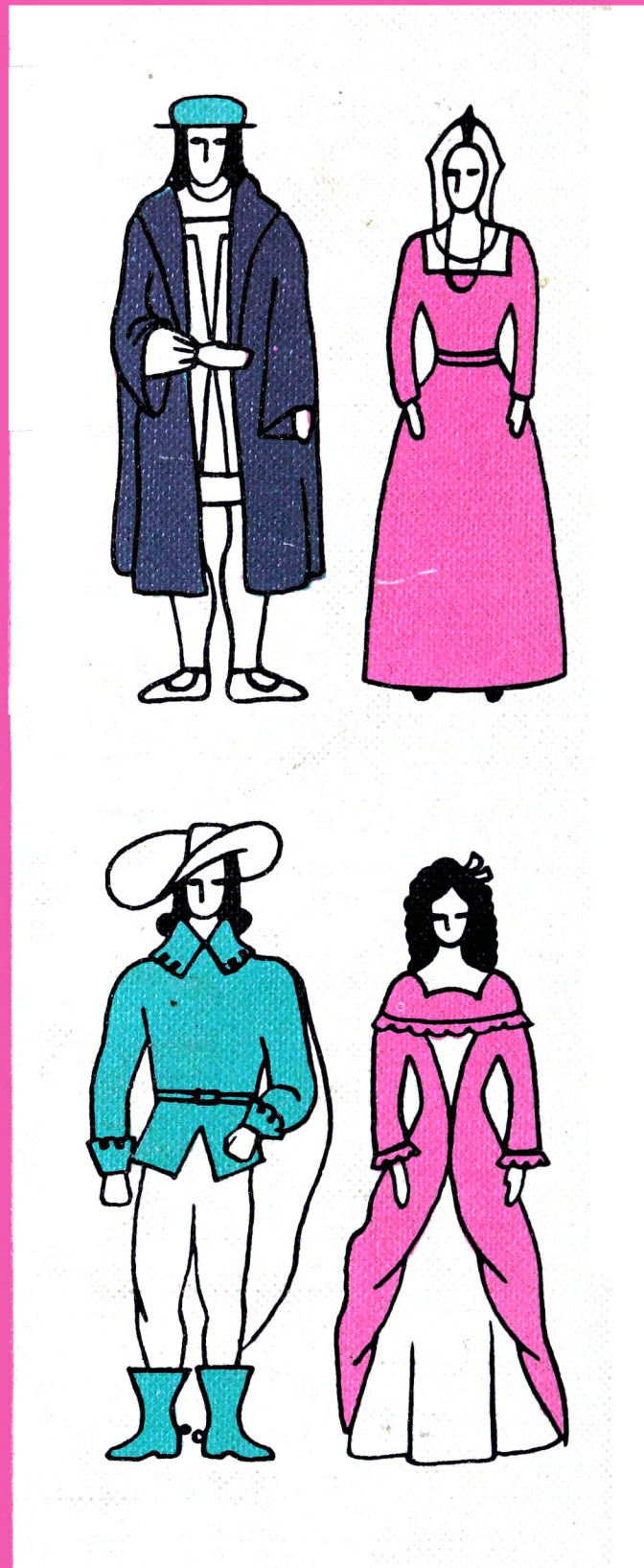
Firemen wear protective boots and helmets with their uniforms and are easily recognized.

There are all sorts of reasons for all sorts of dress, among animals and humans as well.



ALL SORTS of DRESS

Playing dress-up has fascinated youngsters through the years. In this book, Mrs. Neurath shows young readers not only how *people* dress, but the different ways in which animals, insects and plants are dressed by nature. With simple text and imaginative illustrations, she opens young eyes to the wonders of nature — shows, for example, how the porcupine uses its quills for protection, the chameleon hides by blending in with his surroundings, the cactus hoards its water supply from thirsty desert animals.



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